

bring its high-quality treatment within the reach of thousands of North Country residents by opening a new site in Carthage, New York. Residents will benefit from having Elizabeth Wende Breast Care's services right in their neighborhood.

On behalf of New York's 21st District, I want to congratulate Elizabeth Wende Breast Care on the opening of its new location in Carthage, New York. I look forward to hearing about the assistance they will provide to North Country residents, and I wish them the best of luck in the years to come.

SALUTING THE ROUND ROCK, TX  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**HON. JOHN R. CARTER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 25, 2018*

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I salute my friends and neighbors of the Round Rock, TX Chamber of Commerce who were recently honored as the 2018 Chamber of the Year by the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives. The Round Rock Chamber are richly deserving recipients of this prestigious award which recognizes the leadership role chambers have in their communities and excellence in operations and community leadership.

Throughout the years, the Chamber has fostered an unrivaled environment of economic success for the citizens of Round Rock. They've helped to employ over 25,000 Texans with over 10,000 investors supporting the local economy, making the Chamber one of the largest and most active business associations in Central Texas. Their efforts have been a critical part of Texas's strong economy and have been essential to making Round Rock a place where business thrives.

The Chamber continuously works to create economic opportunities for the people of Round Rock. In the past year alone, the Chamber has won \$257 million in capital investment, brought 575 jobs to Round Rock, launched the Entrepreneurship Round Rock program, and increased opportunities for entrepreneurs young and old. When it comes to promoting education, talent development, and quality of life in the Round Rock Community, the Round Rock Chamber never rests.

The positive impacts made by the Chamber are among the many reasons I am proud to call the city of Round Rock my hometown. I celebrate their work and am glad to see them get the national recognition they deserve. I know that for the Chamber, as well as the citizens they're proud to serve, the best is yet to come.

FACEBOOK TRIES TO SILENCE  
THOMAS JEFFERSON AND THE  
DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 25, 2018*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, history tells us that President Thomas Jefferson had a

love hate relationship with the press. At times Jefferson detested them, but he truly believed a free people required a free press. "The basis of our governments being the opinion of the people, the very first object should be to keep that right," words spoken by Jefferson to Edward Carrington in 1787. "And were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter. But I should mean that every man should receive those papers and be capable of reading them." Patriots, like Jefferson, secured these rights that folks enjoy today. Just because we may not like what we read, does not mean that it should be silenced.

It's no big surprise to me that the folks over at Facebook don't know the first thing about freedom and rights. Their latest attack, using digital censorship, has stirred up a firestorm. Just in case you haven't heard, the Liberty County *Vindicator*, a newspaper that publishes news for the City of Liberty, Texas and Liberty County, Texas posted the Declaration of Independence in twelve installments leading up to the Fourth of July. Casey Stinnett, managing editor, said that the first nine parts posted as schedule, but part ten, of the historic document did not appear. The Liberty County *Vindicator* received a notice from Facebook saying that the post "goes against our standards on hate speech." I'm a fierce advocate of the First Amendment protecting freedom of speech and press. This is, without a doubt, a flippant disregard and assault on the First Amendment by Facebook.

For over 131 years, the Liberty County *Vindicator* newspaper, has told the story of everyday America. It has documented community history in a way that will forever be available to future generations. Since the newspaper began operations in 1887, it has covered local events, business happenings, politics, tragedies, civic improvements, and so much more. The paper recently followed and covered Liberty High School's Lady Panthers Softball Team who won the Texas UIL State Class 4A Softball Champions. It has also followed wars and has told stories about our young freedom fighters from the area who returned home and some who did not return. It is everything a community newspaper should be. The *Vindicator* has always had its finger on the pulse of folks in Liberty, Texas.

Liberty's rich history of rugged Texas pioneers who settled near the Trinity River spans more than 180 years. Today, Liberty continues to live up to its rich legacy and community spirit of patriotism. One such family epitomizes the spirit of Liberty County—the patriotic Ripkowski brothers. Twelve brothers from Liberty County, Texas served in our military in various branches spanning from World War II to the Korean War. And they all survived the wars and returned to Liberty County, Texas. According to a pentagon spokesperson, there has never been another family with that many sons from the same parents to join the service in American history.

The Ripkowski brothers believed their service in the military was their duty as an American citizen. To them it was not performed for heroics or to gain medals, but to answer the honorable call of duty for their beloved country. Reality is that freedom doesn't come free. It is the United States military that has always been on the front lines to defend the liberties

of all Americans, even the folks over at Facebook.

It is an honor to have represented the citizens of Liberty County in the United States House of Representatives. I commend the *Vindicator* for challenging its readers to read the Declaration of Independence. Freedom of speech and freedom of the press must ever be protected. Thomas Jefferson, who was the primary author of the Declaration of Independence, said, "our liberty depends on the freedom of the press, and that cannot be limited without being lost." The Founding Father and the third President of the United States, Thomas Jefferson, undoubtedly believed deeply in the freedom of speech and of the press.

Jefferson must have turned over in his grave when he heard that the Declaration of Independence was censored in America. America's defense of freedom and liberties is a struggle that never ends, and the *Vindicator* should continue to exercise the right to free speech and press, whether those that hate the First Amendment like it or not.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING MR. MIKE PARNESS

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 25, 2018*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Mike Parness upon his retirement from a distinguished 40 year public service career in city management.

Mr. Parness grew up in Livermore, California and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Santa Clara. He continued his education at California State University, Hayward, where he earned a Master of Public Administration.

Mr. Parness worked as a City Administrator in Renton, Washington for eleven years before returning to California to serve as the City Manager for San Clemente for twelve years and later, Walnut Creek for almost five years. Since November of 2006 Mr. Parness has been the City Manager of Napa, California.

During his tenure at the City of Napa, Mr. Parness was a member of the Sunrise Rotary and served on the Board of Directors for the California City Management Foundation and the International City Management Foundation. As City Manager, he oversaw the construction of Fire Stations 4 and 5, the renovation of the Edward I. Barwick Jamieson Canyon Water Treatment Plant, the introduction of Measure T and the launch of the 10-mile Paving Program and Sidewalk Repair and Replacement Program. Mr. Parness played an essential role in the revitalization of downtown Napa, the expansion of public event space at the Oxbow Commons and the city's financial recovery after the Great Recession.

Mr. Parness also facilitated the growth of public areas during his career in Napa with the additions of Trancas Crossing Park, China Point Overlook Park, Third Street Overlook Park, and the renewal of Veterans Park. He is also a wonderful colleague. His quick wit, sense of humor and lively stories are cherished by those who work with him.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Parness is a passionate civil servant with an esteemed record for giving back to our community. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor Mr. Mike Parness here today.